

A Briefing Summary
of
Redwood National and State Parks
Marine Monitoring Scoping Workshop

On January 27 and 28 2004, Redwood National and State Parks held its first marine scoping workshop at the South Operations Center in Orick. The workshop was held to address the state of the parks' marine resources within 36 miles of coastal jurisdiction. The parks' 2000 General Management Plan states that park managers will inventory marine plants and animals and monitor their conditions. To comply with this requirement, park managers need to know the condition of the marine resources and to be able to identify the species to monitor in order to manage, protect, and preserve the health and integrity of the marine resources.

The goals of the scoping session were to:

1. determine conditions of current and future marine ecosystem integrity
2. identify the threats (or stressors) that cause abnormal conditions to marine ecosystem health
3. identify indicators (or vital signs) that provide early warning signs of abnormal conditions of marine ecosystem health
4. identify the level of change needed to detect abnormal conditions
5. develop information necessary to write project statements for either inventories (for resources too poorly known to identify potential vital signs) or monitoring design studies for the vital signs identified during the workshop.

Over 50 participants attended the two-day marine scoping workshop. The workshop agenda and participants are presented as attachment 1. Participants represented in-park and out-of-park NPS staff, state agencies (CDFG and CDPR), Yurok tribe, Humboldt State University professors and graduate students, and USGS researchers. On the first day, half day was spent in presentations by park staff and Humboldt State University professors and graduate students to inform workshop participants of the existing knowledge of the parks marine ecosystem. Presentation summaries are presented as attachment 2. Dr. Gary Davis of Channel Islands National Park facilitated the scoping session for the remainder of the first day and for the day following.

Three major coastal workgroups (estuary, intertidal zone, and subtidal zone) were identified by participants in the workshop. The workgroups worked separately to address each of the above park goals. Workgroup notes were summarized and are presented as attachment 3.

Attachment 4 shows the process we, the fish and wildlife branch staff, followed in developing the parks marine vital signs monitoring program. The cover sheet of attachment 4 provides a brief synopsis of the steps we followed. Steps 8 and 9 is the final vital signs monitoring program for RNSP. Step 8 provides the 'what' and for some, the 'how' to detect a potential abnormal condition in the marine environment. Input is needed for Steps 8 and 9. Step 9 needs a substantial amount of input.

Attachment 5 is a flow chart that summarizes Steps 1 through 9???. This diagram can be useful in understanding the process we used to develop the final parks vital sign monitoring program. Feedback on this diagram is appreciated. (AM STILL DEVELOPING THIS IN MY SPARE TIME, WILL SEND WHEN COMPLETED)

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